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A  
FAITHFUL NARRATIVE  
OF SOME  
FACTS,

WHICH HAVE BEEN

Industriously and grossly misrepresented by Persons who were offended at a

VISITATION SERMON,

Preached at SUDBURY, 1769:

Shewing the Unlawfulness of ECCLESIASTICAL MERCHANDISE, and the  
Injury done thereby to the CHURCH of CHRIST.

---

By H. CROSSMAN, M. A.

---

*Conscia mens recti famæ mendacia ridet.*

A Mind assur'd of doing Right, defies  
And laughs at Slanders and malicious Lies.

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L O N D O N :

Printed by J. and W. OLIVER, in Bartholomew-Close;

And Sold by Mr RIVINGTON, N<sup>o</sup> 62. in St Paul's Church-yard;  
Mr GREEN at Bury, Mr KEYMER at Colchester and Hadleigh, and  
Mrs ELIZ. MORE at Sudbury.

M DCC LXXI.

[ Price Sixpence. ]



FAITHFUL NARRATIVE

OF SOME

F A C T S

WHICH HAVE BEEN

VISITATION SERMON

Preached at

the Church of the Holy Trinity, and the  
Church of the Holy Spirit, and the

BY H. C. M. A.



London: Printed and Sold by J. and W. Oliver, in Pall-mall; and by J. and W. Rivington, No. 61, in St. Paul's Church-yard; and by J. and W. Rivington, No. 61, in St. Paul's Church-yard; and by J. and W. Rivington, No. 61, in St. Paul's Church-yard.

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M D C C L X I

The Sixteenth



**T**HE Subject-matter of the SERMON, and Arguments contained in it, are such, as I trust, could not possibly give Offence to any serious Christian, or true Member of the Church of England; and it was thought that the Experience of forty Years in the ministerial Function, might justify me in taking the Liberty to censure, not Persons, but Practices; Practices entirely repugnant to the Statutes of this Realm, and the Laws and Discipline of the Church; Practices manifestly destructive of all Religion, which, unless prevented by the higher Powers, will end in the Ruin of the Church, and a general Diffipation of the Morals of the People.

My whole Design was to warn young Clergymen against seeking Preferment by such Methods as will probably involve them in great Guilt and Perplexity; and likewise to admonish Patrons to consider the Nature and Sacredness of the Trust reposed in them, and to discharge it as Men who believe they must give an Account.

We read of Lord Chief Justice Coke\*, "That he had many Benefices in his Gift, and freely gave them to such Men as he thought worthy of them; saying, in his Language, "Church-Livings should always pass by Livery and Seisin, and not by Bargain or Sale."

The Visitation SERMON has been approved, not only by Mr Archdeacon, (whose great Abilities are well known to the learned World, and to whom I am indebted for his Inspection of it before it was sent to the Press) but by several other Clergymen, particularly a grave, antient Gentleman, the late Reverend Mr *Parfett* of *Rocheſter*, whom I never knew, till I received from him a Present of the Books he had published, with his Sentiments inclosed as follows.

SIR,

Aug. 21, 1769.

"HAVING been a Member of *The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge* near sixty Years, acquainted with your Name for several, and disposed of many dozen of your *Introduction to the Knowledge of the Christian Religion*, &c; I was abundantly encouraged to buy your SERMON immediately on its being advertised, and do now most heartily for myself and many of my Brethren thank you for it; who was not

A 2

"afraid

\* See DALE's History of the Antiquities of Harwich.



“ afraid to attack a Gravamen of the most gigantic Size.—I take the  
 “ Liberty of praying your Acceptance of a few Pieces I have ventured to  
 “ present to the Publick, resolving to be doing my utmost to drive the  
 “ wild Boar out of the Lord’s Vineyard, so long as I can hold my Pen :  
 “ and when disabled that way, I hope I shall have it in my Power to pray  
 “ to the very last ; *O Lord, look down from Heaven, behold and visit thy*  
 “ *Vine.*”

He farther adds,

“ It is justly observed by a very learned and judicious Writer, that  
 “ without a new Regulation in the manner of disposing of Benefices, the  
 “ Contempt of the Priesthood will increase more and more, and, by the  
 “ just Vengeance of God, the Ruin of the Church will be hastened.

“ I was in Company the other Day with many, when your Sermon was  
 “ mentioned, and commended ; upon which a young Clergyman said,  
 “ he had heard it much censured. He was just come from *Cambridge*,  
 “ but the next News was, that his Uncle, an Attorney, had lately bought  
 “ a good Living for him.”

As far as I can learn, they who have been offended at the Sermon, were  
 chiefly such as had traded in, or were waiting for Preferment obtained  
 by means of this illicit Commerce. Not able to bear the Truths, or con-  
 fute the Arguments delivered in this Discourse, they have taken another  
 Method of invalidating them, by propagating notorious Calumnies and  
 false Reports ; asserting in the most public Companies, that the Preacher  
 was now in Possession of a Living which he took to hold for a Minor,  
 and refused to resign. And also,

That he kept back a Legacy of 500*l.* which had been given by a Rela-  
 tion of his, for the Benefit of the Vicarage of *All-Saints in Sudbury.*

These are heavy Charges indeed, had they been true. But some of  
 my Friends, who had often heard me thus wrongfully accused, desired  
 me to give them in Writing a particular Account of these Matters, that  
 they might be able to vindicate me upon any future Occasion. I have  
 therefore drawn up a real State of both these Cases, and challenge any  
 of my Accusers openly, by Name, and upon good Evidence, to disprove  
 any thing related in the following Narrative.

A FAITHFUL



A

FAITHFUL NARRATIVE, &c.

IN the Year 1733, the Living of *Little Bromley* in the County of *Essex*, being vacant by the Death of Mr *Arlington Harrison*, (of whose Father Mr Alderman *Newman* of *Sudbury*, some Years before, had purchased the Estate of *Bromley-Hall*, with the Manor and Right of Presentation to the Church) *H.C.* went to Mr *Newman* and asked for it: And Mr *Newman*, without any Hesitation, promised to give it him, in case Mr *Henry Harrison*, Brother to the late Rector, would not accept of it. Mr *Harrison*, after some Weeks time to consider on it, refused the Living; Then the Promise was repeated to *H. C.* A Day or two before the Presentation was to have been signed, *H. C.* was in Company with the late Rev. Mr *Burrough* of *Sudbury*, who said to him, "I suppose you go to *London* next Week for Institution to *Bromley*." Yes, SIR, replies *H. C.* But, says Mr *Burrough* again, I hear you are only to have it for a Term of Years. For a Term of Years, says *H. C.*? I do assure you, not a Syllable of that kind was ever mentioned to me. Surprized and uneasy at hearing this, *H. C.* went down to Mr *Newman* the next Day, told him what Mr *Burrough* said, and asked him, what could be the Meaning of such a Report? Mr *Newman* answered, "He was advised by some of his Friends to tell me, That he expected I should resign the Living to any Child of his that should be capable of taking it." *H. C.* was quite dissatisfied with this Proposal, advised with Mr *Burrough* and others of his Acquaintance about it, particularly with the Reverend Mr *Heckford*, senior. All dissuaded me from taking the Living upon the Conditions proposed, and

Mr



Mr *Heckford* lent me Bishop *Stillington*'s little Tract *On Bonds of Resignation*. But notwithstanding his own Sentiments, and the Advice above-mentioned; *H. C.*'s Relations, unacquainted with the Nature of Ecclesiastical Affairs, told him he was too scrupulous; and that he was very much to blame to refuse a Living, the Profits of which he might have for a Number of Years, Mr *Newman* having then only one Son, *Samuel*, about three Years old. But *H. C.* considering the many Temptations to which such a Tenure was liable; and being timorous of the Oath to be taken, was very averse to the treating at all about the Living, or having any thing more to do with it. Still importuned, and urged by his Friends he at length consented so far, that if Mr *Newman* would trust him with the Presentation, he would go up to the Bishop, then Dr *Gibson*, and if he approved of the Conditions proposed, *H. C.* would take Institution to the Living; if he did not approve of them, *H. C.* would return Mr *Newman* his Presentation. *H. C.* accordingly went to *London*, waited on the Bishop, tendered him the Presentation, and told him withal, that the Patron expected *H. C.* should resign to any Child of his that should be capable of taking it. And then I said, "My Lord, As I am a very young Man (not quite 24 Years of Age) I should be much obliged to your Lordship to give me your Advice, what is best for me to do?" The Bishop answered, I am not to be Judge and Counsel in the same Affair. I replied again, "My Lord, I beg, you will be so kind as to let me know your Opinion?" The Bishop then answered, I have often heard of holding a Living for a Minor, (though that I do not like) but never in my whole Life, heard of any Clergyman being required to resign a Living when any Child of the Patron's should be capable of taking it. If I was in your Case, I would not do it. You are to consider the Oath against Simony. He added farther, I promise you, I will not ordain you upon that Title. I thanked his Lordship for having so freely given me his Opinion, and said, "What your Lordship would not do in my Case, I am fully determined not to do." I took the Presentation again, and went to the Reverend Mr *Wright*, at his Chambers in *St Martins*, and acquainted him with what had passed between the Bishop and me.

Within two Days I returned to *Sudbury*, went down to Mr *Newman*'s House, thanked him for trusting me with the Presentation, cancelled it, and



and left it upon the Table. I repeated to him what the Bishop said, and told him, "If I was sure to be a Curate all my Days, I would never accept of a Living upon those or any other Conditions whatsoever."

After my refusal, Mr Newman went about to look for an elderly Clergyman, and at length found out the Reverend Mr Watkinson, Curate of Panfield and Blackwater in Essex, whom he immediately presented to this Rectory of Little Bromley; but the old Gentleman enjoyed it only three Years, and died in June 1736.

The Living continued vacant near five Months, several Clergymen made application for it, being well informed of H. C.'s resolution, not to seek after it any more. He saw Mr Newman several times, but never once mentioned the Living, having no Desire to have it upon such Conditions, being quite satisfied with his own Conduct.

IN the Year 1733, after H. C. had refused the Living and returned the Presentation, never expecting to have any farther Concern with it, he wrote the following Stanzas, which he here transcribes, not for any Elegancy in the Composition, but only to shew what were the real Sentiments of his Heart at that Time.

## I.

WHILE Life and Health prolong my Days  
I'll never cease to sing thy Praise,  
Great GOD, whose Pow'r and Wisdom shine  
In all Events, to all benign.

## II.

What tho', by Disappointment cross'd,  
The Benefice I sought is lost;  
Yet still a greater Good I find,  
Complacency and Ease of Mind.

## III.

Men buy and sell; Bonds give and take,  
Of Livings wretched Traffic make;  
'Th' Incumbent aged, sick or dead,  
And hold for Minors, good or bad.



IV.

But I to God submit my Cause,  
Nor dare for Lucre break his Laws,  
An Act unrighteous will not do,  
Nor swear to Things not strictly true.

V.

What Acquisitions can outvie  
The Pleasures of Integrity?  
That gone, Preferment, Place or Gain,  
Can't heal a wounded Spirit's Pain.

VI.

If ought is well or wisely done,  
I claim no Merit of my own;  
To thee, O LORD! the Glory be,  
To thee the Praise, the Peace to me.

VII.

On thine Almighty Power and Aid  
The Anchor of my Soul is staid;  
No Want, no Evils need I fear,  
Under thy good, paternal Care.

VIII.

The Heav'ns and Earth and Things therein,  
Their Store and Plenty, all are thine;  
And from thy Hand what Blessings flow  
To all thy Children here below!

IX.

Thy faithful Servant may I prove,  
Continue in thy Fear and Love!  
And then I'm sure I cannot fail  
To share the choicest of them all.

X.

Whate'er my future Lot, I'll trust  
In thee, the Patron of the Just;  
Saying, with thy beloved Son,  
"Father thy Will, not mine, be done."

On



On the fifth of November, 1736, after *H. C.* had performed Divine Service at *Twinsted* in *Essex*, then his Curacy, a Farmer came to me by the Direction of Mr *Lawrence Gibbon* of *Sudbury*, and told me, that if I would go to him, he could procure a Living for me; or Words to that Effect. I accordingly went to Mr *Gibbon* in the Afternoon, who told me, "Mr *Newman* will give you *Bromley*." I answered; SIR, I will "not take it upon any Conditions." He said again, "Go to Mr *Newman*." I went to Mr *Newman*'s House, who asked me to walk into the Hall, where I spoke to him as follows: "SIR; Mr *Gibbon* bid me come to you, "and told me you would give me the Living of *Little Bromley*; and if "you will give it me freely and without any Conditions, I shall be much "obliged to you; otherwise I cannot accept of it." His Answer was, "I ask nothing of you; I only desire the Parish may be well taken care "of." As I was going out at the Hall-door, he said more, "I hope you "will be kind to the Widow," meaning Mrs *Watkinson*, the Widow of the last Incumbent. Nothing more then passed, but I was ordered to prepare the Form of a Presentation, which I did, and Mr *Newman* signed it, November 9. As soon as he had set his Hand to it, he declared, "he "had no By-ends to serve, but only desired that the Parish might be "well taken care of." He repeated the same Thing, when I went to thank him on my return from *London*, after Institution; when he told me farther, "That some Clergymen had been with him, and offered to "give him Bonds of Resignation; and that one in particular would be "at the Expence of a Son's Education, if he would give him the Living; "but he desired no such Thing, only that the Parish might be easy."

(For in the former Incumbent's time there had been great Differences between him and the Parishioners, of which Complaint had been made to Mr *Newman*, and he expressed much Concern about it.)

Mr *Newman*'s eldest Son, *Samuel*, before mentioned (who is now Vicar and Lecturer of *Dedham*) was then about Six Years old: He had also another Son by his last Wife, when *H. C.* was presented, about Three Years old, namely *Thomas*, who died at *Cambridge* of the Small-pox in the Year 1755. His third Son *John*, was not born till the 18th of November 1736, some Days after *H. C.* was presented to the Living.



Sixteen or seventeen Years being passed over, the Reverend Mr *Cooke*, who had been some time Curate of *Little Bromley*, married and settled in the Parish; and being told by some ill-natured Person, that he must soon quit the Curacy, for that Mr *Newman's* eldest Son was near of Age, and Mr *Croftman* was obliged to resign the Living to him. Mr *Cooke* being very uneasy at this Report, took a Journey to *Sudbury*, to ask Mr *Newman* whether the Report was true. Upon which Mr *Newman* very positively told him, that *H. C.* was not under the least Obligation of this kind. The Reverend Mr *Maleham* was present, and heard Mr *Newman* give this Answer.

*H. C.* having enjoyed this Living almost 24 Years, and being returned to *Sudbury*, from his Residence at *Bromley* in the month of *October* 1760; The third Son of the Patron went to Mr *Maleham*, Curate of *St Peter's* in *Sudbury*, and desired him to come to *H. C.* which he did, with the following Message; SIR,—“ Mr *John Newman* being now near four and “ twenty Years of Age, desires me to acquaint you, that he expects you “ will resign to him the Living of *Little Bromley*.” *H. C.* returned for Answer, “ That he was under no Obligation, either in Law or Conscience, “ to resign; That he was freely presented to this Living, before Mr “ *John Newman* was born, and had never made any kind of Contract “ with, or Promise to his Father concerning it, and would not have “ accepted it, if any Conditions had been required.”

*N. B.* At this very time Mr *Newman's* eldest Son *Samuel* was not provided for.

Mr *Newman* himself, the Patron, was then living, but never once demanded of, or asked *H. C.* to resign: If he had, *H. C.* would not have complied, but have reminded him of the Presentation being returned to him in the Year 1733, because *H. C.* would not accept the Living upon any Conditions whatsoever: He would also have reminded Mr *Newman* of the Declaration he had repeatedly made, namely, “ That he “ had no By-ends to serve, only desired that the Parish might be easy “ and well taken care of.” *H. C.* never made any Promise either directly or indirectly, nor left any room for the Patron to expect a Resignation at any Time, or to any Person whatsoever.

I would



I would only add, That supposing *H. C.* had actually held this Living for a Minor (the contrary to which has been fully shewn) yet Mr *John Newman*, who complains so heavily, could not possibly be injured, as he was not born when *H. C.* was presented. If any one was wronged, it could be no other than Mr *Samuel Newman* of *Dedham*, the eldest Son of the Patron, and six Years old when *H. C.* was presented. And this Mr *Newman* has been heard to say, That if he himself had a Right to the next Presentation, he should not think *H. C.* was under any Obligation to resign the Living to him : That he never knew nor heard his Father speak of any such Thing.

With respect to *Cornard*, when *H. C.* succeeded to it after the Death of the Rev. Mr *Gibbon*, the sole Right of Presentation was in his eldest Sister Mrs *Katherine Gibbon*.

I have done with the *first*, and now come to speak to the *other* heavy Charge laid against me, namely, "The withholding a Legacy of 500*l.* which had been given by a Relation of mine for the Benefit of the Vicarage of *All-Saints* in *Sudbury*." Has not Mr *Newman* and his Family always had an equal Concern with me in the Execution of Mr *Gibbon's* Will, and the Disposal of his Effects? But I shall be full and particular in the Relation of this Matter.

The Rev. Mr *John Gibbon*, who died in *July* 1744, made the following Devise in his last Will and Testament. "Item, I will that the Sum of *Five hundred Pounds* be laid out for the Purchase of the Advowson or Right of Patronage of the Vicarage of *All Saints* Parish aforesaid, with the Rights, Members and Appurtenances, or otherwise for the Benefit of the Vicarage and Church of *All Saints* in *Sudbury*, to be settled in lawful manner upon my Three Sisters as Tenants in common, and not as Joint-Tenants."

Not to mention, that soon after Mr *Gibbon's* Death, this Clause in the Will was shewn to Mr *Godbold*, then Vicar of *All Saints*, and he impowered to purchase the Advowson, in order to an Augmentation; towards the



the latter End of the same Summer, *H. C.* accompanied by the Rev. Mr *Maleham*, went over to *Asben* in *Essex* to treat with Dr *Piper*, in whom the Perpetuity of this Vicarage was vested : and found him at *Stoke Book-club*, in company with Sir *Hervey Elwes*, Dr *Warren*, Mr *Tisser*, Mr *Sharpe*, Mr *Pemberton*, and others. *H. C.* before them all recited the above Clause in Mr *Gibbon's* Will, and then asked Dr *Piper* what he would be pleased to have for the Advowson of the said Church ? Declaring at the same Time, that the Remainder of the 500*l.* after the Purchase-money paid should be immediately laid out in the Augmentation of the Vicarage, which was reckoned about 20*l.* a Year certain Value ? The Doctor hesitated a little while, then answered, He would have 480*l.* for the Advowson. Sir *Hervey Elwes* replied directly, What do you mean, Doctor, by asking such an exorbitant Price for so small a Vicarage ? If 480*l.* be laid out in the Purchase, what will be left for the Augmentation ? The other Gentlemen expostulated with him after the like manner, but to no purpose. *H. C.* then called Dr *Warren* aside, and told him, That as Dr *Piper* had expressed himself so positively, it would be in vain to say any thing more to him at present, but requested that he would be so kind as to take another Opportunity to talk with him ; and if he would not be content with less, to offer him all that could be offered, namely 300*l.* for the purchase of the Advowson, with a promise, that the remaining 200*l.* should be applied, as soon as possible, to obtain *Q. Anne's* Bounty for the Augmentation of the Vicarage. Dr *Warren* some time after, made this Offer, but with no more Success than before.

Thus the Affair rested during the Life of Mr *Godbold*, and Mr *Hackett* who succeeded him, the Executors of Mr *Gibbon* not being willing to augment, unless the Right of Presentation could be purchased and settled upon his Three Sisters, according to the Direction of the Will ; for Mr *Gibbon* had a double Intention in this Devise, (as appeared from what he had said to his Friends in his Life-time) First, That his Sisters, (one of whom, with a near Relation, then lived in the Parish) might have the Choice of their Minister ; And then, that upon the first Vacancy, Mr *Maleham*, to whom he had left a Legacy of 50 Guineas, might be presented, and have something certain.

After



After the death of Mr *Hackett*, a single Turn remained in Mr *Godbold's* Family, having been purchased by them, and Dr *Piper* procured his Nephew, the present Vicar to be presented to the Vicarage. Mr *Piper* the Vicar had not long been in Possession of the Church before he came over to *H. C.* at *Bromley*, with an Offer from his Uncle the Doctor, that if Mr *Gibbon's* Executors would apply 200*l.* of the Money devised towards the Augmentation of the Vicarage, he himself would add a hundred Pounds to it. *H. C.* that nothing might be neglected on his part which might promote Mr *Gibbon's* Intentions, came back to *Sudbury* with Mr *Piper*, to consult the other Executors about it, who determined, that they would not attempt to augment the Vicarage, unless the Advowson could be first had.

*Copy of a LETTER from Dr Piper to a Friend in London, on occasion of H. C.'s Proposal to purchase and then augment, which had been mentioned to the Bishop of Norwich.*

—“ IN Answer to Mr *Crofsman's* proposal, be so good as to represent to his Lordship, that I cannot at present think of dismembring the Vicarage from my Estate, which will be a complete one, consisting of the Manor with its Demesnes, the Improprate Tythes and the Advowson after Mrs *Tysen's* Death; but should I alter my Intentions, Mr *Crofsman* should know it. In the mean time, if he will apply 200*l.* I will add a hundred more out of my own Pocket, as a farther Inducement to the more speedy and effectual obtaining of *Q. Anne's* Bounty-money for the Augmentation of it, and he may reserve in his hands the remaining 300*l.* with the growing Interest thereon, for the purchase of the Advowson whenever the Patron shall be disposed to sell the same. By these Means the late Mr *Gibbon's* pious Intention for the Benefit of the Church may be performed without farther Delay, and the other part of his Will relating to the Purchase, may be likewise complied with, on the first Occasion that offers; nor does it signify in the Interim, in whose Hands the Advowson is, since the Benefit of the Church will be the same. I only mention this Method, submitting it to your Lordship's great Wisdom and better Regulations.”

I am, Rev. SIR,  
Your most obliged, humble Servant,  
JOHN PIPER.



THIS Letter, or a Copy of it, being sent to *H. C.* an Answer was given to it in Writing as follows ;

“ THE Executors of Mr *Gibbon* look upon themselves as not obliged  
“ by his Will to augment the Vicarage of *All-Saints*, unless they could  
“ first purchase the Advowson. However, as Dr *Piper* has offered 100*l.*  
“ Mr *Newman* and Mr *Croftman* will give 50*l.* each in order to obtain  
“ the Queen’s Bounty for the Augmentation of the Vicarage. Or if Dr  
“ *Piper* himself will advance 200*l.* in order to an Augmentation, we will,  
“ as soon as Security can be had, put out 200*l.* in safe Hands, and en-  
“ gage that the whole Interest of it shall be yearly paid to the Vicar of *All-*  
“ *Saints* until the Advowson can be purchased, and then the Principal shall  
“ be applied to a farther Augmentation.”

*Tho. Newman.*  
*H. Croftman.*

N. B. Dr *Piper*’s Nephew, newly ordained Priest, was in possession of the Living when this Offer was made by Mr *Newman* and *H. C.*

The Reply to this from Dr *Piper* was, “ that he would do no other-  
“ wise than advance 100*l.* if we would advance 200*l.*”

Here the whole Business entirely stopped, and the Executors were threatened with a Bill in Chancery. One End of Mr *Gibbon* in making this Devise having been already defeated, by so young a Man as Mr *Piper* obtaining the Vicarage of *All Saints*, that there was no Probability of Mr *Maleham* ever succeeding to it. In the Year 1756, Mrs *Katherine Gibbon*, the only Survivor of the Family, that dwelt in the House in *All-Saints* Parish, died; the Relation that had been with her removed into St *Peter*’s Parish, and then the other Intention of Mr *Gibbon* in this Devise ceased also.

Upon Dr *Piper*’s threatening a Bill in Chancery, the Executors of Mr *Gibbon* took the Opinion of Counsel, which was, “ That if this 500*l.*  
“ was looked upon as a Charitable Devise, intended for the Benefit of  
“ the Vicar of *All-Saints*, it was void by the Statute of the 9th Year of  
“ K. *Geo.* the Second, and the Money would sink into the Residuum of  
“ the Personal Estate, and go to the surviving Sisters of the Testator.”

The Money lay dormant till the Year 1760, when it was equally divided between Mr *Newman* and *H. C.* Although *H. C.* might have kept his  
Moiety



Moiety of 250*l.* for his own private Use, the Devise being void by the Statute of Mortmain. Yet considering that there was an Intention, that a Clergyman not sufficiently provided for should be benefited by it, he resolved that neither he nor any of his Family should reap the least Advantage from it, therefore put the whole Sum of 250*l.* into the public Funds (the Three per Cent. Annuities) and bought with it 300*l.* Stock. The Interest of it, being nine pounds a Year, has been ever since paid by *H. C.* to the Rev. Mr *Maleham*, in whose Parishes the two surviving Sisters of Mr *Gibbon*, and their near Relation beforementioned, now live. Mr *Maleham*'s Parishes are large, his Stipend small; and we certainly know that he was the Person intended to be presented by the Devise of the Testator, if the Advowson could have been purchased soon after his Death.

Having then fairly stated both Cases, I think I have a Right to demand Justice from the World, in regard to those Calumnies with which I have been most cruelly and maliciously upbraided: And I would only add, that with respect to the Living, it has been newly reported that my Wife and Mrs *Newman* agreed upon the Terms of Resignation whenever Mr *Newman* should desire it. I answer, I was not married till six Years after I had been in Possession of *Bromley*. But if any Friend, unknown to me, had made any Agreement on my behalf, I could not have fulfilled it, it being part of the Oath taken before Institution, "I will not at any Time hereafter perform or satisfy any kind of Payment, Contract or Promise, made by any other without my Knowledge or Consent."

With respect to the Vicarage of *All-Saints*; (agreeably to my Sentiments and Declarations among my Friends, ever since the 500*l.* was divided) I am now ready to close with either of the following Propositions:

1. If the Advowson of *All-Saints* is yet to be purchased, I am willing to join my 300*l.* Stock to the other 250, to purchase the Perpetuity, and with the Remainder, after the Purchase made, to augment the Vicarage; but till that is done, intend Mr *Maleham* shall continue to receive the Interest as hitherto.—Or,

2. If Mr *Newman*'s Family choose to give 200*l.* of their Moiety of the 500*l.* towards augmenting the Vicarage of *All-Saints*, my 300*l.* Stock shall be settled, so that the officiating Curate of *St Peter's* and *St Gregory's* in *Sudbury* may enjoy the Interest of it for ever.

F I N I S.



18 JA 53